



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

FULL COMMISSION POLICY MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2008

3:30-6:30PM

COMMISSION OFFICE

Commissioners

Dr. Anne Ashmore-Hudson
Marvin Bowser
Christopher Cowan
Lou Hill Davidson
Rebecca Fishman
Rhona Wolfe Friedman
Rogelio Maxwell
Marsha Ralls
Bernard Richardson
Michael Sonnenreich
Judith Terra
Lavinia Wohlfarth

Staff

Gloria Nauden, Executive Director
Lionell Thomas, Deputy Director
Dolores Kendrick, Poet Laureate
Catherine Cleary, Legislative and Grants Manager
Rachel Dickerson, Public Art Manager
Ebony Blanks, Program Coordinator
Charles Barzon, Program Assistant
Victoria Murray, Program Assistant
Kendall Ladd, Interim Arts Education Coordinator
Moshe Adams, Legislative & Grants Assistant

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:53.

The Chair welcomed the new commissioners: Commissioner Bowser, Commissioner Cowan and Commissioner Richardson. The new commissioners and the experienced commissioners introduced themselves to each other.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Friedman and seconded by Commissioner Wohlfarth that the minutes be accepted as presented.

***Motion Carried**

***Unanimous**

III. Director's Report:

The Director updated the Commission on the changes to the ArtsEve DC activities and displayed a mock up of the invitation. She also mentioned the call for nominations for the Mayor's Arts Awards.

IV. Chair's Report:

The Chair reported on her attendance at the Americans for the Arts conference on arts education on Los Angeles and described Los Angeles's successes with infusing the arts into their public school districts. She also reminded the commissioners to be aware of potential or nascent public art projects in their individual wards as the Commission moves forward with the public art master plan. Commissioner Fishman noted the construction of a waterfront park in Georgetown and suggested it as a potential site for new public art.

The Chair and Commissioner Fishman described the successes of FotoWeek DC. Commissioner Maxwell suggested having FotoWeek DC and Kids Euro Festival present debriefings to the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Friedman and seconded by Commissioner Maxwell that the festivals provide a debriefing with written documentation of expenditures at the February 2009 Commission meeting:

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

V. Poet Laureate's Report:

The Poet Laureate discussed her current and ongoing activities within the DC literary and educational community.

VI. East of the River:

Ebony Blanks introduced Jessica Neely and Antoinette Ford as the panel representatives for East of the River. Under the direction and guidance of the Commissioner/Convener Ann Ashmore-Hudson and Ebony C. Blanks, Arts Program Coordinator, panelists adhered to the recommended review process. The panel met in one session to complete its application review and recommendations.

A total of 19 applications were submitted. The total amount of funds requested was \$275,000.00. Of the 20 reviewed, one was deemed ineligible. The panel recommended funding for 17 applicants totaling \$ 195,000.00 based on their merit. Of the 20 applications, 17 were recommended for \$195,000 of funding based upon their merit.

The panel made the following recommendations for policy and program improvements:

The panel had no policy recommendations.

The panel commended the applicants who sent representatives and felt the panel process to be very efficient. The applicants who were not funded did not relate their application and/or projects to the purpose of the grant.

Commissioner Friedman asked if grants were based on merit or funds. The panel based funding on the merit primarily.

Following discussion it was moved by Commissioner Terra and seconded by Commissioner Wohlfarth that the funding recommendations be approved as presented.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

VII. Elders Learning Through the Arts

Charles Barzon introduced Sandra Rossi, the panel representative. Commissioner Davidson commended the panelists for their professionalism. Under the direction and guidance of the Commissioner Convener Lou Hill Davidson, Lisa Richards, Program Manager and Charles Barzon, Arts Program Assistant, panelists adhered to the recommended review process. The panel met in one session to complete its application review and recommendations.

Twenty-six applications were submitted. Of the twenty-six applications reviewed, the total amount of funds requested was \$124,161.57. The panel recommended funding for thirteen applicants, totaling \$50,000.00 based on their merit. Ms. Rossi commented that there were some applications that had strong ideas but weak applications. Overall, there were many strong applications.

The panel made the following recommendations for policy and program improvements:

1. Program guidelines should require the submission of evaluative measures for the proposed project.
2. Program guidelines should emphasize that funding for catering is not provided.
3. Program guidelines should require work samples from arts instructional staff.
4. Program guidelines should include information on the Arts and Aging Toolkit website (artsandaging.org). This online resource offers detailed advice and examples on senior arts program design, implementation, and evaluation.
5. Program guidelines and workshops should advise applicants to clearly state their project goals.

6. A sample “application” should be provided to applicants as a template by which they could model their own proposal.
7. Evaluate as a workshop opportunity a “grant” application; makes the workshop more interactive.
8. Implement an interactive component to grant workshops by having participants construct a proposal together in groups.

The Chair asked if the more funding should be available to applicants under this program. Commissioner Davidson commented that that would be very helpful.

Following discussion it was moved by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Fishman that the funding recommendations be approved as presented.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

VIII. Hip Hop Community Arts Initiative

Victoria Murray, Interim Program Officer, introduced panel representative, Giani Clarkson. Under the direction and guidance of the Commissioner/Convener Rod Little, and Victoria Joy Murray, panelists adhered to the recommended review process. The panel met in one session to complete its application review and recommendations.

A total of 28 applications were submitted. Of the 28 submitted applications, two were ineligible for funding. The total amount of funds requested was \$105,500.00. Of the 26 reviewed, the panel recommended funding for 14 applicants based on their merit.

The panel made the following recommendations for policy and program improvements:

1. Set a small sub-category to fund artists who are in need of creating a demo or decide what percentage of applicants wanting to do a demo can be funded.
2. Include constructive feedback sheet in the initial box that is sent to the panelists.
3. Include bios of all panelists in the initial box that is sent to the panelists.
4. Include a scoring category or bullet line that applies to an applicant’s level of participation.
5. Clearly delineate in the score sheet the difference between community impact and level of participation as they often overlap but are weighted differently.
6. Clarify in the score sheet whether the artistic merit of the project or that of the applicant are being scored.
7. Provide a sample of a successful application as an example for applicants.

8. Provide an online questionnaire where applicants can determine the most appropriate grant program that they should apply to.
9. Specify in all applications “food purchases are not allowed”.
10. Have applicants that sit in on the panel process sign a confidentiality form.
11. Reinforce in the guidelines that an evaluation plan is required and is apart of the applicant’s criteria for submission.
12. Include “innovation” as a bullet in the definition for artistic merit scoring category.

Mr. Clarkson commended the Commission for supporting a program that supports a community that is generally overlooked. He explained the funding stipulations included recommends from the panel.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Friedman and seconded by Commissioner Wohlfarth that the funding recommendations be approved as presented, with the exception of the applicant ranked #11, who will not receive funding.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

IX. Young Artist Program

Legislative and Grants Manager, Catherine Cleary, introduced panel representatives Holly Bass and Jon Gann. Under the direction and guidance of Commissioner Convener Rogelio Maxwell and Catherine Cleary, Legislative and Grants Manager, panelists adhered to the recommended review process. The panel met in two sessions to complete its application review and recommendations.

A total of 38 applications were submitted, one of which was deemed ineligible and one of which was withdrawn. Of the 36 applications reviewed, the total amount of funds requested was \$99,183.99. The panel recommended funding for 28 applicants, totaling \$77,696.99, based on their merit. This recommendation left a remaining unallocated program budget of \$42,303.01.

Ms. Bass stated that the quality of the applications greatly surpassed that of the previous year. Mr. Gann presented the idea of awarding extra funding for general operating support for emerging artists.

The panel made the following recommendations for policy and program improvements:

1. Provide model applications as a method of technical assistance
2. Encourage esoteric artists to gather more letters of support in order to help explain the merit of their project

3. The DCCAH website should contain demographic information about panelists and applicants.
4. The panel's notes should be included with the award letters and denial letters.
5. Young Artist grantees should be advertised in City Paper.
6. Young Artists should receive an extra amount of funding that is specifically designed for them to market themselves as artists.
7. The DCCAH website should host a page of links to previously funded YAP grantees' websites.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Hudson that the funding recommendations be approved.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Friedman and seconded by Commissioner Wohlfarth that the extra funding recommendations for general operating expenses be approved as presented.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

X. Artists In Schools and Artist Teaching Fellowship

Kendall Ladd, Interim Arts Education Coordinator, introduced Bruce Taylor, panel representative, to the Commission. Under the direction and guidance of the Commissioners/Conveners Lou Hill Davidson, Kendall Ladd, Interim Arts Education Manager and Catherine Cleary, Interim Legislative and Grants Manager, panelists adhered to the recommended review process. The panel met in one session to complete its application review and recommendations.

One application was submitted for Arts Teacher Fellowships and five applications were submitted for the Artists in Schools program, one of which was withdrawn. Of the 5 applications reviewed, the total amount of funds requested was \$12,500.00. The panel recommended funding for 4 applicants, totaling \$8,205.00, based on their merit. This recommendation left a remaining unallocated program budget of \$24,295.00.

Mr. Taylor commented that the panel was very concerned with the why of each activity, rather than the what. The goals needed to be very clear. He was surprised by the low number of applicants and suggested communicating with arts organizations and asking them to share their guidelines with teachers who are already participating in the arts. He noted the stipulation that Applicant #1 pay the teaching artist double the amount proposed.

The panel made the following recommendations for policy and program improvements:

1. Panelists suggested showing grantees samples of applications to show how to approach the whole topic
2. Panelists suggested creating a YouTube how to submit grants video, and PowerPoint presentations for the DCCAH website
3. Allow teaching artists in non-standard arts categories apply
4. Suggestions for proposals:
5. Include work samples of previous students
6. More stringent lesson plans
7. When dealing with multiple grade levels, have more standards for the separate grades.

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Davidson and seconded by Commissioner Maxwell that the funding recommendations be approved including the extra funds to Applicant #1.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

XI. Public Art:

Rachel Dickerson, Public Art Manager, explained the history of the St. Elizabeth Public Art project and noted the added request of \$30,000. Mr. Rick Uzez, Assistant to the Director of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, described the ongoing updates being made to St. Elizabeth's. He commented that he found the art and the selection of the art very exciting. He noted the artists' commitment to having the patients benefit from the art.

The artists presented their individual art projects.

Commissioner Fishman inquired about the need for \$30,000 more. Ms. Cheryl Derricotte, Executive Director of Gateway Community Development Corporation, explained the difficulty of choosing between the two proposed suspended installations and stated that the panel wanted both (and that the site could accommodate both projects).

Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Wohlfarth and seconded by Commissioner Cowan that the projects be approved as presented, including the project requiring an additional \$30,000.

*Motion Carried

*Unanimous

XII. Old/New Business:

The subject of best practices for appeals process was introduced. So far, the Commission has made no ruling on appeals. The Chair requested further research into best practices.

The next Commission meeting on December 18, 2008 will review, discuss and decide upon policies.

XIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Wohlfarth and seconded by Commissioner Maxwell to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.